

# **MICHIGAN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**September 21, 2001**

**\* \* \* APPROVED – December 5, 2001 \* \* \***

### **Members Present:**

James A. Fink, Chair  
Ferne Farber  
Shirley Mann Gray

The Honorable Richard Halloran  
Catherine Lucas  
The Honorable Edward Sosnick

### **Members Absent:**

Michelle Hayes

### **Staff Present:**

Debi Cain, Executive Director  
Michelle Bynum  
Penny Hackett-Evans  
Sarah Heuser

Julie Lyons  
Anna Melbin  
Carri Phillips  
Karen Porter

### **Guests:**

Kathy Hagenian, MCADSV  
Larry Hermen, Centerboard Associates  
Mary Keefe, MCADSV  
Mary Lovik (staff starting 10/1/01)  
Amy Ronayne Krause, Attorney General's Office

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The September 21, 2001, Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDVPTB) meeting at the Waldenwoods Banquet and Conference Center, Hartland, MI, convened at 12:15 p.m. Introductions were made and a welcome extended to guests.

### **BOARD CONSENT**

Review of agenda and approval of July 10, 2001 board meeting minutes.

**MOTION: F. Farber moved to approve the September 21, 2001 agenda and meeting minutes from July 10, 2001. Seconded by R. Halloran. Motion carried.**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

## Meeting with Doug Howard and Jim Beougher

J. Fink discussed the outcomes of the recent meeting with Doug Howard and Jim Beougher. Mr. Howard and Mr. Beougher expressed support for the work of the Board and for the concerns of the board regarding the legislative process, public policy statements, and the position of the Board as the central DV agency for the state of Michigan with coordination of state efforts regarding domestic violence. Discussions with the legislative liaison resulted from that meeting.

Mr. Howard and Mr. Beougher acknowledged that the Board, while a part of the Executive Branch, does not consider itself a political body and wishes to work with any agency, organization, or partner that has an interest in domestic or sexual violence. Other issues discussed in the meeting were staffing and office space. There was support from Mr. Howard and Mr. Beougher to work with us on these issues to help us achieve our goals while not totally disrupting the FIA structure.

## Retreat Action Items

C. Lucas noted that the retreat provided an opportunity to review the five end statements the board has developed. She moved that the board adopt the model developed at the board retreat, which reflects the board's new vision of its prioritized activities, for use as a working document for the next year as the board refines its end statements (see attached Appendix A).

Discussion ensued regarding what this motion would do in terms of the day to day implementations for the staff and board. C. Lucas stated that it will help frame future work with the board in developing prioritization of the end statements, which will assist with resource decisions such as staffing and funding.

C. Lucas reviewed the three key issues from the Governor's Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force for the coming year: Batterer Intervention Standards, Domestic Violence Death Prevention and Review Teams, and Medical Reporting. They were prioritized to guide the work of the MDVPTB staff for the next year. The first priority is the *Domestic Violence Death Prevention and Review Teams*, which states the MDVPTB supports exploring whether death prevention teams ensure safety, justice, and autonomy for domestic violence survivors.

The second priority is *Medical Reporting*. The statement proposed that the MDVPTB supports leading a discussion with a broad group in order to look at how to balance our shared goals of providing for survivors' safety, prevention of domestic and sexual violence, and the survivor's right to autonomy related to medical reporting.

The third priority is the *Batterer Intervention Standards Task Force*. This states that given the inconsistent application of current Batterer Intervention Standards and the board's commitment to using standards as one tool to hold batterers accountable, the Board supports the evaluation of batterer intervention standards to determine their continuing viability in light of current research.

**MOTION: C. Lucas moved to accept the prioritized initiatives. Seconded by R. Halloran. Motion carried.**

## MONITORING TO ASSURE ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

### The Governance Process: Governing Style

J. Fink led the discussion on the Board Governing Style. He asked if there were any questions or issues that needed to be discussed on the governing style policy.

There was no feedback from staff or guests present.

**MOTION: Made by R. Halloran to reaffirm the governing style policy. Seconded by F. Farber. Motion carried.**

### **The Governance Process: Board Job Description**

J. Fink led the discussion on the Board Job Description. C. Lucas suggested that it would be helpful to put something into the board job description that connects what we do with the enabling legislation. Discussion ensued. E. Sosnick suggested that this be something the Governance Committee review. J. Fink suggested that a draft policy be prepared for discussion purposes at the next board meeting. It was further discussed that because this speaks specifically to domestic violence, the board may want to add sexual assault. Further discussion ensued. It was noted that at the last board retreat, sexual assault was added to the mission statement and it was also added to all new policies that were developed at that retreat. As well, there is approximately \$3,000,000 for sexual assault in our budget line items. D. Cain noted that we provide staff resources and devote time to sexual assault issues, and we do have some responsibility based on dollars that come through our office. C. Lucas noted that it would be helpful, as we have the enabling legislation, to clarify our role in terms of sexual assault. She suggested that some kind of working paper be attached so when the enabling legislation is distributed, our role is clear. Our role with domestic violence and what we are to do is very different than our role with sexual assault.

**MOTION: Made by F. Farber to refer the board job description policy to the Governance Committee. Seconded by C. Lucas. Motion carried.**

### **Annual Board Planning Cycle**

J. Herman suggested this policy might also be processed through the Governance Committee. There may be a way to be more precise about what the Board has done and will be doing to set the agenda for the next year. J. Fink noted that section 1 is fine and section 2 has been addressed for fiscal year 2000. C. Lucas suggested removing section 3 because it is an action plan, not a policy. She also suggested that subsection "A" in section one be incorporated into the wording for section one, therefore eliminating the subsection.

**MOTION: Made by C. Lucas to eliminate A, B, & C in Section 1, and move up the sentence in item A; remove A and B from Section 2 and move up the sentence in item A; and strike Section 3. Seconded by R. Halloran. Motion carried.**

### **Executive Limitation Policies: General Executive Director Constraint**

J. Fink noted this policy is stamped draft. D. Cain explained it is a draft because consumer treatment, which was deleted at the July board meeting, was removed and the four items that were added at last years retreat have been added to the document. C. Lucas raised a concern

regarding the definition of executive in item #6, and if additional focus be added to ensure that there is at least one staff person on the MDVPTB staff for their expertise of domestic and sexual violence. J. Fink noted there are no other executives on the MDVPTB staff, so this infers a certain level of employee. By practice the FIA has identified two individuals, Jim Beougher and Mary Mehren, who fit that executive level and could assume responsibility in D. Cain's absence.

It was noted that there are many people on staff, who if needed to step in, could do so. D. Cain noted that her job level does not provide the capacity to build in a supervisory level staff position. MDVPTB staff that have been recruited and hired with experience on violence against women do not have signatory or supervisory capacity within the FIA structure, as they are contract employees. Discussion ensued. C. Lucas suggested these issues be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next board meeting.

**MOTION: Made by C. Lucas to have the chair appoint a committee to study and make recommendations on item 6. Seconded by F. Farber. Motion carried.**

**MOTION: Made by R. Halloran to adopt the General Executive Director Constraints policy. Seconded by C. Lucas. Motion carried.**

#### **Executive Limitation Policies: Financial Planning and Budgeting**

D. Cain called attention to the budget packets distributed at the retreat. She noted that much of our federal money has been cut back. We're very dependent on TANF money and we've had to shift general fund money and replace it with TANF. Some expenditures and priorities have been adjusted based on issues that were referred to the MDVPTB in the Governor's Task Force report. Also, we have attempted, wherever we have the capacity, to carry surplus money, to roll it into the next year to assist in absorbing funding cuts. However, the TANF money gives us no flexibility to do that because at the end of each fiscal year it expires. By next year we will be greatly impacted by cutbacks and difficult decisions about continued funding efforts will need to be made.

D. Cain discussed two pending grants. One is the rural grant and that amount is subject to change. Last time rural money was awarded the amount we requested was not received. The second grant pending is for \$35,000 for a public awareness campaign.

Discussion ensued regarding our dependence on TANF funds and budget projections for the state. D. Cain noted that the MDVPTB is an appropriated line item, which results in both in a legislatively approved and Governor-signed process.

**MOTION: Made by C. Lucas to approve the Financial Planning and Budgeting policy. Seconded by S. Mann Gray. Motion carried.**

#### **Executive Limitation Policies: State Policy Leadership**

D. Cain noted that it has been a smooth process working with the executive office. Many of their policy advisors are people we work with regularly. The MDVPTB mandate is to work with the board and the legislature. As discussed with D. Howard, J. Beougher and B. Kordenbrock, there has been confusion regarding the board's role with the legislature. D. Cain stressed the importance of positioning the board to work in a bi-partisan way with the legislature.

Referring to item 3 of the policy, C. Lucas stated that if the board expects to be seen as the clearinghouse for state policy on domestic violence and sexual assault, then the outreach efforts to keep elected officials and leaders informed of the board's work, priorities, and agenda is extremely important. D. Cain clarified that she will proceed with projects such as mailings and newsletters and will notify Bill Kordenbrock of these efforts.

J. Fink noted that the executive response for item 5 is blank and clarification from the board has been requested. He noted the issue of medical reporting might be a method for the board to see how it will implement the public stance on policy issues.

**MOTION: Made by R. Halloran to accept the Director's Report as complying with policy. Seconded by F. Farber. Motion carried.**

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON ENDS DEVELOPMENT – WORK TO DATE**

D. Cain reported that the staff will pursue and follow-up on the issues of the three priorities just approved. She reported that there are a number of initiatives that have been started in relationship to awareness campaigns.

Work is continuing on the domestic violence web site. The first priority is to provide survivor and family information to the site. This will provide vital information regarding where and how services can be accessed.

In anticipation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, the 2000 homicides list has been distributed to all of our domestic violence programs and will be placed on our web site.

We have been in communication with the executive office, as they usually hold a Domestic Violence Awareness Month press conference with the Governor. We're currently waiting to see if we receive the legislative package back in time, as the intent would be to introduce it. Good bi-partisan and bi-cameral support for the package is expected.

A copy of the *Report to Michigan* will be mailed to all members of the state legislature, Supreme Court, Attorney General, and all our congressional representatives.

Joyce Wright of the MDVPTB training staff is continuing to work with Mort Crim Associates on a brochure that will contain much of the same kind of information in the *Report to Michigan*, yet in an abbreviated format. These will be used on a wider basis, such as at presentations and conferences where we need to provide a large supply of brochures showing who we are and what we do.

Doug Howard was recently asked to write an editorial for the Michigan Chronicle, and he was willing to write on domestic violence. The letter will address the approaching domestic violence awareness month and the importance of domestic violence issues for the people in Michigan.

The MDVPTB staff continues to work with the Department of Community Health and the Michigan Women's Commission on some of the domestic violence materials available in public areas. We anticipate receiving copies of the updated PPO brochure in the near future. We have pooled our resources with the Department of Community Health and Michigan Women's Commission to provide materials to the public. MDVPTB is providing subject matter and legal

expertise to ensure the domestic violence and sexual assault information contained in these publications is accurate and consistent with other available materials. Domestic violence, stalking, and PPO brochures currently exist. The MDVPTB logo does not currently appear on all of these brochures because at the time of printing we did not have FIA approval on the logo. Our intent is to have the logo placed on these brochures when they are reprinted.

The MDVPTB staff is currently working on a poster campaign and mirror clings for community awareness on where services and help are available in individual communities. All of the domestic violence programs that contract with the MDVPTB will receive their own supply of materials, which will provide their phone numbers.

The original PSA campaign idea was to have prominent male figures speaking to other male figures about domestic violence. Some ideas considered were to use an athlete, a corporate executive, etc.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **PROCESS EVALUATION**

E. Sosnick and F. Farber commented that the retreat was great.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

**MOTION: Made by E. Sosnick to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by F. Farber. Motion carried.**

### **Future Meeting Dates**

The next MDVPTB meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 5, 2001** in Lansing.

Future meeting dates: **Friday, February 8, 2002; Friday, May 17, 2002**

Documents referenced in these minutes may be obtained from Carri Phillips, MDVPTB. She can be reached at (517) 335-6388.

The **WEBPAGE** for the MDVPTB is located at:  
[http://www.mfia.state.mi.us/CFSAAdmin/dv/domestic\\_violence.html](http://www.mfia.state.mi.us/CFSAAdmin/dv/domestic_violence.html)

Respectfully submitted,  
Carri Phillips